

**Meeting Minutes for Classis Heartland
Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Sheldon, IA
Wednesday, September 16, 2026**

Article 01: Constitution of Classis

Clerk Mr. Pete Van Velzen announced that credentials were in order. Delegates to classis signed *The Covenant of Officebearers*. Chair of classis Rev. Lee Khang declared classis constituted with the following officers and delegates, then welcomed delegates and visitors

A. Classis Meeting Officers

Chair: Rev. Lee Khang
Vice-Chair: Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
Stated Clerk: Mr. Pete Van Velzen
Treasurer: Dr. Randy Smit

B. Classis Meeting Delegates (M = minister delegate, E = elder delegate, D = deacon delegate)

Calvary CRC – Orange City, IA: Mr. James Viet (E), Mr. Darrel Kroese(E), and Mr. Philip Elgersma (D)
Calvin CRC – LeMars, IA: Rev. Brian Hofman (M), Mr. David Hector (E), and Mr. Jeremy Kamp (D)
F Street Church – Lincoln, NE: Pastor Jeff Heerspink (M), and Mr. RJ Coburn (E)
First CRC – Hospers, IA: Mr. Mike Schoonhoven (E), Mr. Kevin Kooistra, and Mr. Phil Zeutenhorst (D)
First CRC – Hull, IA: Rev. Aaron Greydanus (M), Mr. Rob Westra (E), and Mr. Ryan Fedders (D)
First CRC – Orange City, IA: Rev. Stephen Terpstra (M), Rev. Jordan Helming (M) Mr. Mike Byker (E), and Mr. Nick Noteboom (D)
First CRC – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Brian Dunn (M), Mr. Darin Granstra (E), and Mr. Adam Van Meeteren (D)
Hawarden CRC – Hawarden, IA: Rev. Seth Atsma (M), Mr. Eugene Byker (E), and Mr. Bill Kingma (D)
Hope CRC – Hull, IA: Rev. Keith Hoekstra (M), Mr. Jerry Boer (E), and Mr. Levi Blankespoor (D)
Immanuel CRC – Orange City, IA: Rev. Cody Statema (M), Mr. Ryan Breems (E), and Mr. Ross Eldridge (D)
Immanuel CRC – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Kevin Muyskens (M), Mr. Brad Kraayenbrink (E), and Mr. Jesse De Kam (D)
Ireton CRC – Ireton, IA: Rev. Nathan Kuperus (M), Mr. Ryan Zommermaand (E), and Kyle Van Veldhuizen (D)
Living Water Church – Orange City, IA: Mr. Rod De Boer (E)
Living Water Church – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Jesse Walhof (M) and Mr. Josh Waller (D)
New City Church – Kansas City, MO: Rev. Andrew Vanden Akker (M) and Mr. Scott MacDougall (E)
Northern Lighthouse Church – Lincoln, NE: Pastor Jon Keyzer (M), Dave Brown (E) and Rev. Sam Keyzer (E)

Ocheyedan CRC – Ocheyedan, IA: Rev. Lee Khang (M), Mr. Mike Bosma (E), and Mr. Brad Hellinga (D)
Pathway Community Church – Olathe, KS: No delegates present
Prairie Lane CRC – Omaha, NE: Rev. Chad Van Ginkel (M), and Mr. Mark Adams (E), and Mike Mruz (D)
Sanborn CRC – Sanborn, IA: Rev. Phillip Westra (M), Mr. Larry Hofman (E), and Mr. Travis Solsma (D)
Sibley CRC – Sibley, IA: Rev. Ben Wiersma (M), Mr. Jeff Vande Griend (E), and Mr. Mike Baumgarn (D)
Siouxland Unity Church – Sioux City IA: No delegates present

C. Classis Meeting Guests

Dr. Randy Smit (Classis Treasurer)
Mr. Loren Veldhuizen (Council of Delegates)
Rev. Doug De Groot (Minn-I-Kota Youth)
Ms. Lee De Groot (Minn-I-Kota Youth)
Ms. Kim Starkenberg (World Renew Board Member)
Mr. Matt Dengler (First CRC in Hospers)
Rev. Kris Vos (Center for Church Renewal)
Rev. Keith Doornbos (Center for Church Renewal)
Ms. Trudy Ash (Thrive)
Dr. Lee Carter (Thrive)
Mr. Del Walinga (Calvary CRC in Orange City)
Ms. Helen Evink (First CRC in Hospers)
Mr. Cory Grimm (Cornerstone Prison Church)
Ms. Jackie Walinga (Calvary CRC in Orange City)
Mr. Janice Poppema (First CRC in Hospers)
Ms. Faye Dengler (First CRC in Hospers)
Rev. Scott Muilenburg (Synodical Deputy – Classis Minnkota)
Rev. Cliff Hoekstra (Synodical Deputy – Classis Iakota)
Rev. Steve Mulder (Synodical Deputy – Classis Northcentral Iowa)
Mr. Steve Van Otterloo (First CRC in Hospers)
Ms. Jo Goslinga (First CRC in Hospers)
Rev. John Tock (Calvary CRC in Orange City)
Rev. Brad Meinders (Resonate Global Missions)
Rev. Mark Klompier (Resonate Global Missions)

Article 02: Opening Worship and Meditation

A praise team from Immanuel CRC led classis in a time of singing. Rev. Kevin Muyskens then offered a meditation on the church's calling to make disciples of all nations. He connected this calling with the denomination's vision of planting 150 new churches over the next ten years and challenged Classis Heartland to consider how we can participate in this effort. Classis then viewed the video, "Fall Classis Update from the General Secretary." Rev. Muyskens then opened the meeting in prayer.

Article 03: Communications and Overtures from Churches

- A. Letters from Ocheyedan Christian Reformed Church and Sheldon First CRC re: seating women delegates at classis (pp. 4-5 of the agenda) were received for information.
- B. The Overture from Prairie Lane CRC, New City Church of Kansas City, Northern Lighthouse of Lincoln and F Street of Lincoln re: the re-organization of classical appointments (pp. 6-7 of the agenda) was presented by Rev. Chad Van Ginkel. Following discussion, a motion was made to table the overture and have CIC appoint an advisory committee. **Adopted**
- C. The question from credentials regarding “zero” or “low amount” givers was discussed (p. 2 of the supplement).

Article 04: Center for Church Renewal

Rev. Kris Vos and Rev. Keith Doornbos shared the work being done by the Center for Church Renewal. The center is currently working with over 130 churches. They described the two-year renewal experience that is designed to help congregations regain their mission focus, strengthen their health, and make more and better disciples. They hope to start a Renewal Lab Cohort in our region.

Article 05: Examination of Mr. Del Wallinga for Licensure to Exhort (Church Order Art. 43.b)

- A. Rev. John Tock opened the examination with prayer.
- B. *A Letter of recommendation* was received from Calvary CRC in Orange City (agenda p. 8).
- C. *Sermon Evaluation*: Rev. Stephen Terpstra and Mr. Ross Bouma reviewed Mr. Wallinga’s sermon and his recent delivery of this sermon at First CRC of Orange City on September 6, 2026. They enthusiastically recommend Mr. Del Wallinga to pass the preaching portion of the examination and believe his exhorting will be of great blessing to our classis. A motion was made to move ahead with the interview. **Adopted.**
- D. *Interview Examination*: Rev. Nate Kuperus conducted an interview of Mr. Wallinga exploring his faith journey, biblical and theological knowledge, sermon preparation process, and practical wisdom. This also included a time for delegates to ask Mr. Wallinga questions.
- E. Executive session was declared by the chair, Rev. Lee Khang, and all visitors were dismissed. Motion: Grant a License to Exhort to Mr. Del Wallinga. **Adopted.**
- F. *Prayer*: Rev. Jesse Walhof led classis in a prayer of blessing for Mr. Wallinga and his future service to the congregations of classis.

Article 06: Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)

- A. Rev. Nathan Kuperus drew the delegates’ attention to the meeting record for the CSC on page 4 of the supplement to the agenda. He thanked the churches for being faithful in their giving.
- B. Dr. Randy Smit discussed the budget and ministry shares proposal. Ministry shares will be \$122 per member for 2027. That is a 3.39% increase.
Motion: Motion to table discussion of classical ministry shares until after reports have been presented. **Adopted**
- C. Motion: Approve the work of the Classical Stewardship Committee and the treasurer. **Adopted**
- D. Rev. Nate Kuperus prayed for the work of the CSC and the ministries supported by Classis Heartland.

Article 07: Thrive

- A. Dr. Lee Carter (Thrive Director) and Ms. Trudy Ash (Connect Team Lead) shared information about Thrive's ministry and work. They challenged the churches of Classis Heartland to look ahead five years and consider what they would like to see in their congregations. Thrive remains committed to its mission of equipping and encouraging congregations with the tools and resources they need to flourish.
- B. Mr. Henry Meurs is our new Regional Connector.

Article 08: Examination of Mr. Matt Dengler – First CRC Hospers (Article 24b) & Mr. Scott MacDougall - New City Church (Article 23) for ordination as commissioned pastors.

- A. Rev. Andrew Vanden Aker introduced Mr. Scott MacDougall and Rev. Lee Khang introduced Mr. Matt Dengler. Rev. Vanden Aker opened the examinations with prayer.
- B. *Sermon Evaluation:* Rev. Jordan Helming reviewed Mr. MacDougall's sermon and his recent delivery of this sermon at New City Church in Kansas City on August 30, 2026. Rev. Helming commented that Mr. MacDougall is a gifted speaker and thorough teacher and wholeheartedly recommends that he pass this portion of the examination. A motion was made to move ahead with the interview. **Adopted**
- C. Rev. Chad Van Ginkel conducted examinations of Mr. Matt Dengler and Mr. Scott MacDougall. He questioned them regarding the spiritual disciplines that nurture and strengthen their faith, their biblical knowledge, covenant theology, the sacraments, and practical wisdom for ministry. The examination also included an opportunity for delegates to ask questions.
- D. Executive session was declared by the chair, Rev. Lee Khang, and all visitors were dismissed.
- E. Motion: To approve Mr. Scott MacDougall for ordination as commissioned pastor under Article 23 of Church Order at New City Church in Kansas City. **Approved**
- F. Motion: To approve Mr. Matt Dengler for ordination as commissioned pastor under Article 24b of Church Order at Hospers CRC. **Approved. The synodical deputies concurred with the decision.**

Article 09: Rev. Mark Klompien – Nepal

Rev. Mark Klompien shared information about the challenges and opportunities in his ministry in Nepal. He expressed gratitude for classis's continued prayers and support and asked classis to pray for the people of Nepal, noting that the church is on the move.

Article 10: Areopagus

Ms. Lora Copley presented her final report on Areopagus, as she is stepping down from her role with the ministry to take on her new position as editor of *The Banner*. Rev. Daniel Gregory will serve as the new campus pastor. Mr. Dan Tracy now serves on the Areopagus Board of Directors.

Article 11: Calvin Theological Seminary

Ms. Holly, Associate Director of Admissions at Calvin Theological Seminary, thanked Classis Heartland for its continued support. She reported that the new academic year is off to a good start, with a strong cohort of students. She also provided updates on faculty and curricular changes and announced that the seminary's president, Rev. Jul Medenblik, will be retiring at the

end of the academic year. Ms. Holly requested classis's continued prayers and support for the seminary and its ministry.

Article 12: *The Banner*

Ms. Lora Copley reported on her work as editor of *The Banner*, noting, among other things, the important role the publication plays during this time of denominational renewal. She expressed her appreciation for those who read and share *The Banner*, submit articles, and faithfully pray for its ministry.

Article 13: Cornerstone Prison Church

Rev. Scott Van Voorst addressed classis on behalf of Cornerstone Prison Church, sharing an update on the ministry's growth and the challenges it faces. He noted renewed interest and growing enthusiasm for the church. Pastor Cory Grimm, worship pastor at Cornerstone, was introduced to classis. Rev. Van Voorst expressed the ministry's appreciation for the prayers of classis and emphasized the importance of continued prayer support

Article 14: Resonate Global Missions

Rev. Brad Meinders provided an overview of the work of Resonate Global Missions, highlighting its ministry in three areas: local missions, global missions, and church planting. A summary of Synod's 10-year strategic plan for church planting within our denomination can be found on pages 29–34 of the agenda. Rev. Meinders concluded by leading classis in prayer for the work being carried out throughout Classis Heartland.

Article 15: World Renew

Ms. Kim Starkenburg thanked Classis Heartland for its prayers and support of World Renew. She provided an overview of the organization's work and highlighted opportunities for involvement. Ms. Starkenburg emphasized the ongoing need for volunteers and encouraged delegates to visit the World Renew website to learn more about its ministries and volunteer opportunities.

Article 16: Dordt University

President Erik Hoekstra extended greetings from Dordt University and expressed gratitude to Classis Heartland for its longstanding and faithful support. He also shared several of Dordt's accomplishments and highlighted recent developments at the university.

Rev. Phillip Westra prayed for the organizations and ministries we support as a classis and denomination.

Article 17: Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)

- A. Rev. Keith Hoeksta called attention to the report on agenda pages 12-14. The committee encourages congregations to take advantage of ECD grants. The next "Called Event" will be held on November 14. A motion was made to approve the work of CHMC. **Adopted**
- B. Rev. Kevin Muyskens prayed for the work of CHMC

Article 18: Advanced Notice for CRCNA 2027/2028 Events and Opportunities

Rev. Kevin Muyskens drew attention to the list of upcoming events and opportunities found on pages 15-18 of the agenda.

Article 19: Classical Nominating Committee (CNC)

- A. Paper ballots were distributed to delegates (agenda page 19).
- B. After the ballots were collected and counted, the following individuals were elected or re-elected to the respective positions:
 - 1. Rev. Brian Dunn – Classical Interim Committee Alternate
 - 2. Rev. Kevin Muyskens – Classical Home Missions Committee
 - 3. Dr. Allan Kramer – Classical Home Missions Committee
 - 4. Mr. Mark Volkers – Classical Home Missions Committee
 - 5. Rev. Cody Statema – Classical Home Missions Committee Alternate
 - 6. Ms. Leandra Hulstein – Classical Stewardship Committee
 - 7. Rev. Seth Atsma – Classical Discipleship Committee Alternate
 - 8. Rev. John Klompier – Classical Nominating Committee
 - 9. Mr. Mike Byker – Classical Nominating Committee
 - 10. Mr. Glenn Bouma – Classical Nominating Committee Alternate
 - 11. Rev. Lee Khang – Classical Ministry Leadership Team
 - 12. Mr. Darrell Schuller – Classical Ministry Leadership Team
- C. Motion: Affirm World Renew's approval of Ms. Kim Starkenburg for a second term of service on the World Renew Board of Directors. **Adopted**
- D. Motion: Approve the work of the Classical Nominating Committee. **Adopted**

Article 20: Classical Discipleship Committee (CDC)

- A. Rev. Ben Wiersma shared information about the work of the CDC. The committee's written report can be found on pages 41 and 42 of the agenda.
- B. The Safe Church written report is available on agenda page 23.
- C. Ms. Lee De Groot and Rev. Doug De Groot gave an update on their work with the Minn-I-Kota Youth Network. They described the success of the MIK Young Adult program, the annual Jr. High retreat that was held in April, and the beginning of the school year kickoff at Thunder Road. They thanked classis for its support of Minn-I-Kota Youth and asked churches of Classis Heartland to encourage students and young adults to get involved in the programs that are available. A written report can be found on pages 21 and 22 of the agenda.
- D. Mr. Del Walinga shared information about Timothy Leadership Training. Additional information can be found on pages 8-12 of the agenda supplement.
- E. The CDC recommends that classis increase the Safe Church stipend for Abby Vanden Bosch from \$1000 to \$2000. The CDC also recommends that classis approve the MIK Youth/+ budget increase. These are included in the budget/ministry share package for 2027.
- F. Motion: Approve the work of the CDC and its report. **Adopted**

Article 21: Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

- A. Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, chair of the Classical Ministry Leadership Team, shared information about the work of the CMLT.
- B. Motion: Renew the classical license to exhort for Mr. Dan Tracy, Mr. Matt Dengler, Mr. William Aranas, and Mr. Harold Willemstyn for another two years. **Adopted.**

- C. The discussion regarding leadership development did not take place during the classis meeting. Instead, the churches of Classis Heartland will discuss the topic (agenda pages 35-37) at their next council meetings and submit their responses to the stated clerk of classis.
- D. Motion: Approve the work of CMLT. **Adopted**

Article 22: Council of Delegates (COD) Report

Mr. Loren Veldhuizen described the role of the COD. The Council of Delegates has not met since Synod 2026.

Article 23: Devotions and Prayer

Rev. Kevin Muyskens led Classis Heartland delegates and guests in a time of devotions and prayer. The devotional, provided by Classis Prayer Coordinator Barb Hibma, followed the pattern of the Lord's Prayer.

Article 24: Classical Interim Committee (CIC)

- A. Rev. Nate Kuperus directed the delegates' attention to the summary of CIC's work on pages 38- 40 of the agenda. He noted that the CIC is responsible for carrying out the work of classis between meetings.
- B. The CIC made and approved a motion to readmit Rev. Luke Wynja as Minister of the Word in the CRC. At the March classis meeting, the CIC was given the authority for final approval.
- C. Motion: To disband the Diaconal Task Force. **Adopted.**
- D. Motion: CIC moves that classis approve the request from Pathway Community Church per Art. 38d. of the Church order. **Adopted**
- E. Motion: CIC moves that classis declare Mr. Kevin Schutte "released" from ordination as a commissioned pastor per article 24-d and article 14b of the Church Order. **Adopted**
- F. CIC asks all committees, groups, and staff that are mentioned in the Classis Heartland Rules of Procedure to fully review the Rules of Procedure, consider what changes are necessary to sections pertaining to them and propose these changes to the stated clerk by January 15, 2027. The present rules can be found on the Classis Heartland website.
- G. Mr. Pete Van Velzen asked classis delegates to review the stated clerk's report on page 41 of the agenda. He highlighted some of the activities he is involved in as clerk.
- H. Motion: Approve the work of the stated clerk. **Adopted**
- I. Motion: Approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee. **Adopted**

Article 25: Classical Ministry Shares

- A. Motion: to put Classical Ministry Shares proposal back on floor. **Adopted**
- B. Motion: To pass Classical Ministry Shares as proposed. **Adopted**

Article 26: Church Counselor Reports

- A. Rev. Kevin Muyskens reported on his work with New City Church. Mr. Scott MacDougall is now a commissioned pastor and there is another commissioned pastor candidate at New City Church.
- B. Rev. Aaron Greydanus shared that things are going well at First CRC in Hospers. He and Rev. Lee Khang have been serving as mentors for Mr. Matt Dengler.
- C. Rev. Cody Statema reported that he has been in regular contact with the search committee at Living Water Orange City. Rev. Tom Wolthuis is currently leading them in worship.

- D. Rev. Phillip Westra and Rev. Jesse Walhof shared that everything is going well with the emerging church status of Living Water Sheldon.
- E. Motion: Approve the work of church counselors. **Adopted**

Article 27: Church Visitor Reports

- A. Church Visitors to the North had no report.
- B. Church Visitors to the South, Rev. Ben Wiersma and Rev. Phillip Westra, shared written reports of their visits to Northern Lighthouse and F Street Neighborhood Church.
- C. Motion: Approve the work of our church visitors. **Adopted**

Article 28: First CRC Hospers pulpit supply

Motion: for classis to continue providing pulpit supply for First CRC in Hospers through the end of the year and then stop providing the service in 2027. **Motion Failed**

Article 29: Adjournment

- A. Motion: Adjourn the meeting of Classis Heartland. **Adopted**
- B. Rev. Lee Khang thanked everyone involved in planning for the classis meeting and to Immanuel CRC for hosting the meeting.
- C. Rev. Lee Khang closed the meeting in prayer and the doxology was sung.
- D. Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2027, at Ocheyedan CRC.

Pete Van Velzen
Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland